

REMARKS


In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action, Applicants elect for prosecution on the merits the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-20.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement, in a telephone conference with Applicants' undersigned attorney on July 22, 2003, that the application would be allowable if Claim 21 is cancelled.

In response to the statement, Applicants have herein cancelled Claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that the application is now allowable. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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